MRERP

Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Partnering in the Development of the Plan

One River ■ One Vision

Presentation Objectives

- Explain the role of a cooperating agency
- Provide you with enough information to decide whether to be a cooperating agency
- Explain how to join the process
- Discuss why this is so important

Proposed Ecosystem Restoration Plan Intent

To restore ecosystem functions, mitigate habitat losses, and recover native fish and wildlife, while seeking balance with social, economic, and cultural values for future generations.

Plan Authorization

Water Resources Development Act 2007

SEC. 5018. MISSOURI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES, MITIGATION, RECOVERY, AND RESTORATION, IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, MONTANA, NEBRASKA, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA, AND WYOMING.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee to be established under subsection (b)(1), shall conduct a study of the Missouri River and its tributaries to determine actions required—

(A) to mitigate losses of aquatic and terrestrial habitat;

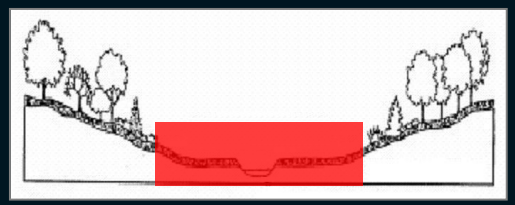
(B) to recover federally listed species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

(C) to restore the ecosystem to prevent further declines among other native species.

(2) FUNDING.—The study to be conducted under paragraph (1) shall be funded using amounts made available to carry out the Missouri River recovery and mitigation plan authorized by section 601(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (100 Stat. 4143).

Plan Scope

- Long-term, large scale strategy v short-term, site specific actions
- Mainstem & tributaries (ecological nexus)



Missouri River

(primary focus)

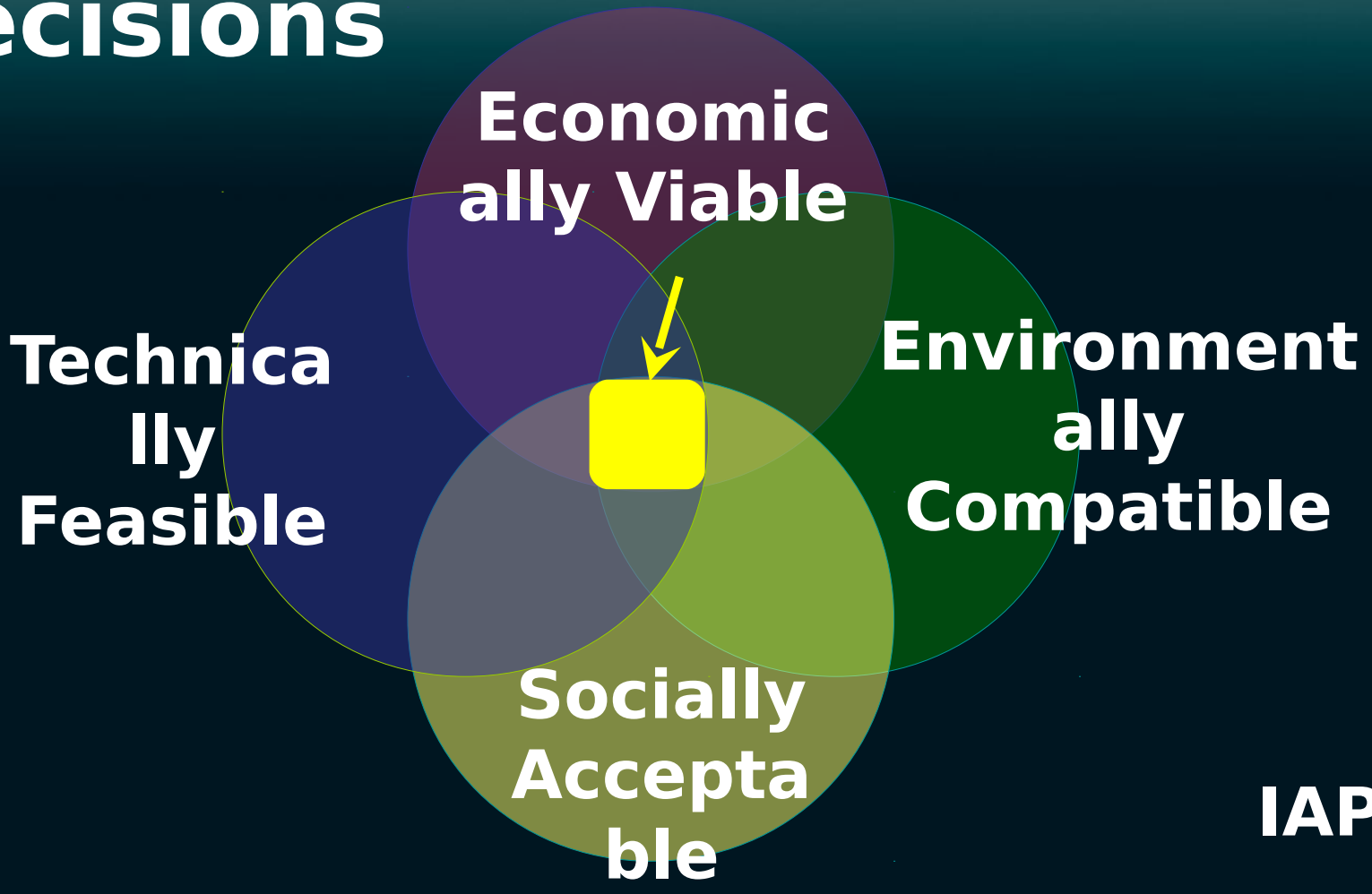
- Main stem and valley/floodplain
- Three Forks, MT to St. Louis, MO

Tributaries, Blufflands and Upland Areas

(progressively added as necessary)

- Whole or part
- Where instrumental to Missouri River target resources

PLAN GOAL: Sustainable Decisions



IAP2

Plan Roadmap—Where are we?

Initiate Planning

1) Develop Partnerships and Prepare for the Study
2) Establish Study Rationale and Focus

Study the Affected Environment

3) Assess Resource Conditions
4) Evaluate Future Issues and Situation

Consider Alternatives

5) Formulate Restoration and Adaptive Management Alternatives
6) Compare Impacts of Alternatives
7) Consider Preferred Alternative

Select the Plan

8) Publish Draft MRERP-EIS for Public Review
9) Revise MRERP-EIS
10) Publish Final MRERP-EIS and Record of Decision

Plan Participants

Cooperating Agencies

Federal Agencies

Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee

Tribes

States

Public

Plan Participants—The Public

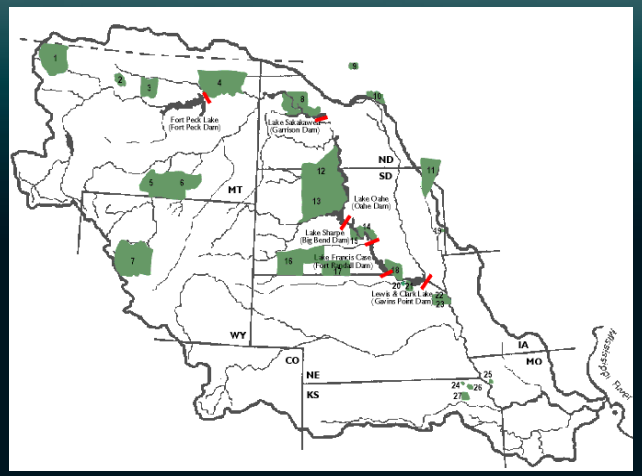
- Public service responsibilities
- NEPA requires that "[a]gencies shall make diligent efforts to involve the public in preparing and implementing their NEPA procedures"

Public

Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan

Plan Participants—Tribes

- Federal trust responsibilities
- Tribal sovereignty
- Tribal resources within the basin



Tribes

Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan

Plan Participants—MRRIC

- Collaborative, multi-stakeholder forum
- Provides “consultation” regarding MRERP and “guidance” to the Recovery Program actions (WRDA)
- Anticipated to provide guidance to many agencies

MRRIC

Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan

Plan Participants—Agencies with Jurisdiction, Authority, Special Expertise

- Typically federal, state, and tribal governments
- Public trust responsibility
- Jurisdiction
- Expertise and resources
- Regulatory requirements

Cooperating Agencies

Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan

Plan Participation—Technical Te

Technical Team
Subject Area –
e.g. Water Quality

Cooperating Agencies

Technical Team
Subject Area –
e.g. Cottonwood Forest

MRRIC

Technical Team
Subject Area –
e.g. Hydropower

Plan Participation—Opportunities

Plan Roadmap—Where are we?

Initiate Planning

Develop Partnerships and Prepare for Planning

Projected Completion: December 20

Study the Affected Environment

Consider Alternatives

Formulate the Plan

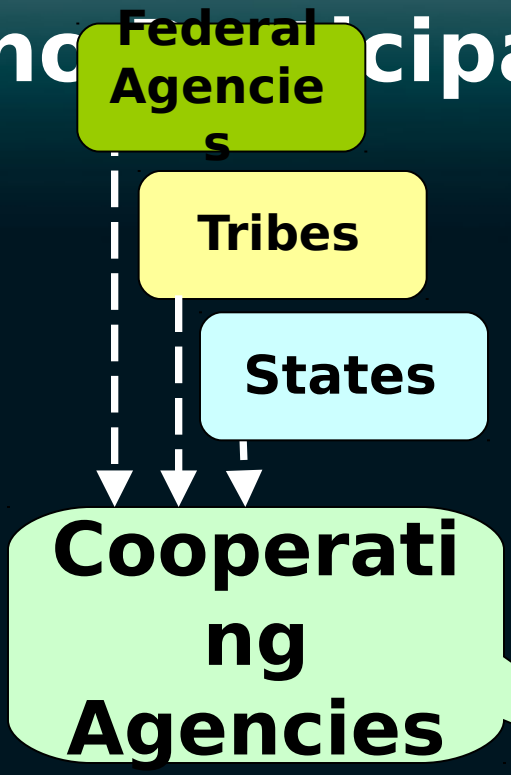
Cooperating Agency Team—Who?

- "Jurisdiction by law" - agency authority to approve, veto, or finance all or part of the proposal; OR
- "Special expertise" - statutory responsibility, agency mission, or related program experience.

Cooperating Agencies

Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan

Cooperating Agency Team—Who Participates?



Per NEPA regulations Cooperating Agencies can include:

- State government or agencies
- Tribal governments or agencies
- Local government or agencies of similar qualifications as States

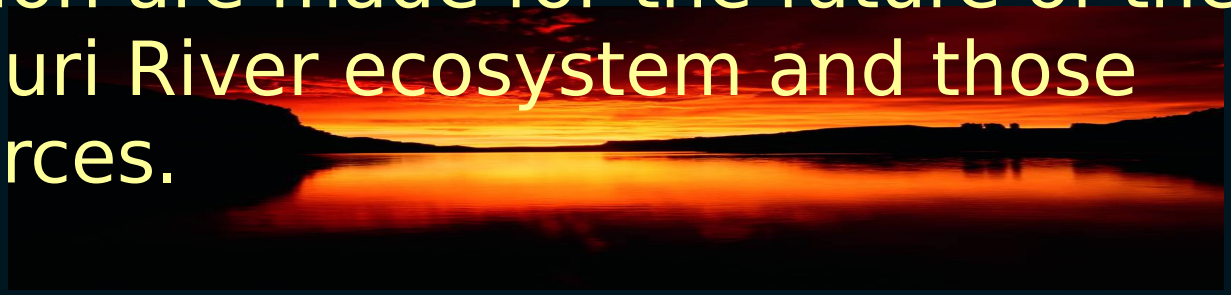
Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan

Cooperating Agency Team—Why Participate?

- Define and shape the desired future condition.
- Develop more sustainable and system-wide approaches to restoration.
- Fulfill your agencies public trust responsibilities.
- Integrate existing efforts.

Cooperating Agency Team—Why Participate?

- The Missouri River ecosystem is of extraordinary importance and value.
- Its health directly impacts the resources for which many of us are responsible for managing.
- Participation will result in shaping how decision are made for the future of the Missouri River ecosystem and those resources.



Benefits to Cooperating Agencies

"Working collaboratively really challenges people, pushes them to think bigger and more broadly, creatively and longer term….Also allows leveraging of resources."

– Upper Mississippi River System Environmental Management Program

"Instead of being reactive to an EIS or permit, a Cooperating Agency is more involved in proposing on the ground activities."

– Everglades Restoration Plan

Cooperating Agency Team—Next Steps

Pick Your POC

- Employee of the agency (State, Tribe, or Federal Agency)
- Management and/or ecological knowledge of the Missouri River
- Understanding of agency mission, structure, institutional function
- Capacity to access expertise from agency and management of the agency

Cooperating Agency Team—Next Steps

Your POC's Role

- Participate on the Cooperating Agency Team
- Bring agency technical expertise to the table (suggest technical team members)
- Communicate MRERP activities back to agency
- Serve as the voice of the agency in regard to MRERP decisions
- Recommend sustainable decisions in coordination with State, Tribe, or Federal

Cooperating Agency Team—Next Steps

Your POC's Time and Commitment

- Attend quarterly (approximate) Cooperating Agency Team meetings and between-meeting conference calls. Some travel required.
- Contribute to and review MRERP assessments, analyses, and outputs.
- Communicate with and coordinate within agency.

Cooperating Agency Team—Next Steps

Other Agency Roles

Alternate to Point of Contact:

- Steps in to fill POC role in POC absence
- May accompany POC to regular meetings and calls

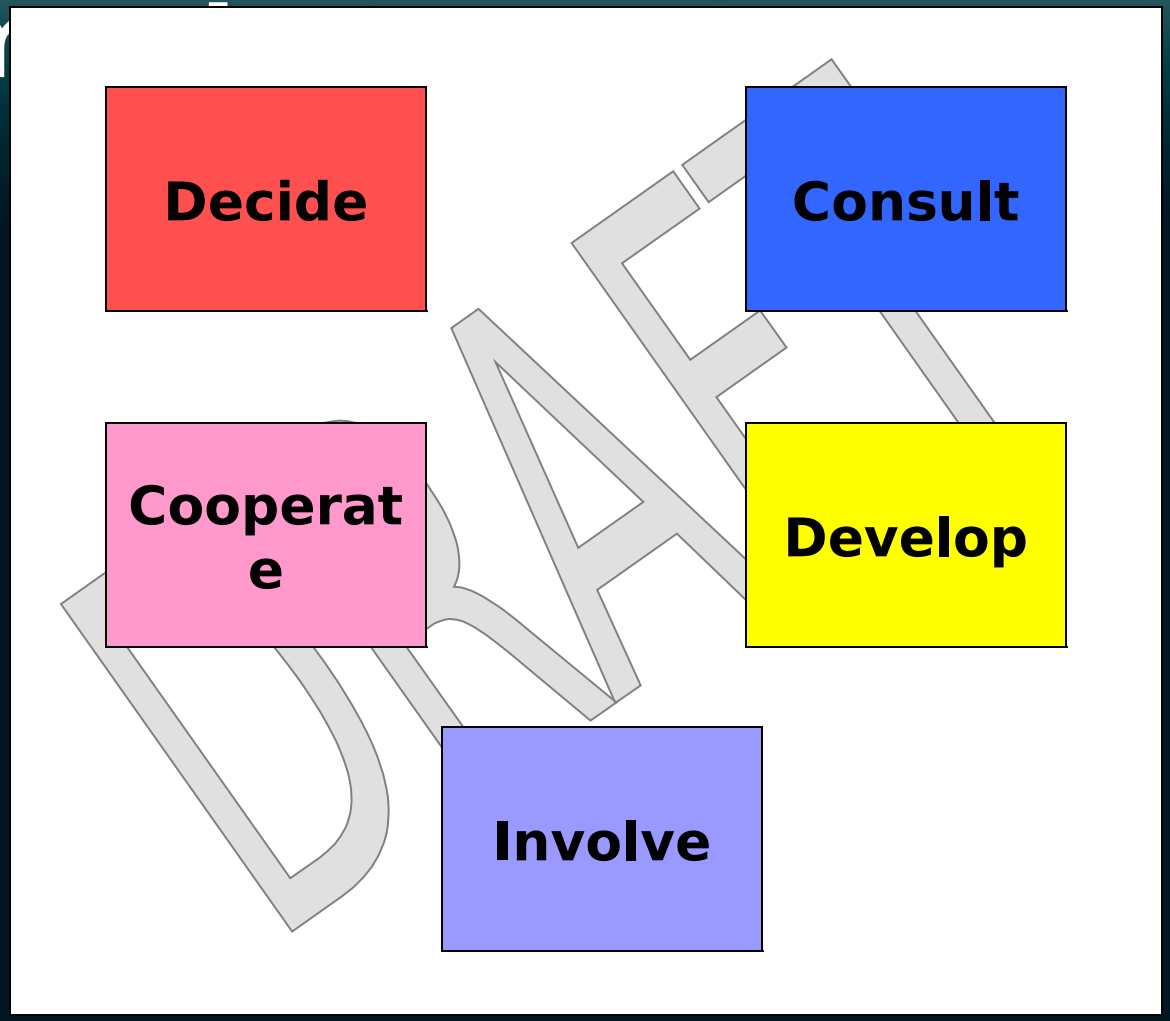
Technical Team Members:

- Identified by POC
- Attend technical team meetings and contribute to technical team outputs

Plan Participation—Levels of Engagem

How will participants contribute to the study and planning process?

How will the USACE interact with the participants?



Plan Participation—Levels of Engagement

Plan Roadmap:

10 Step Planning Process

	USACE	MRRIC	Tribes	Cooperating Agencies	Tech Teams	Public
Initiate Planning						
Step 1. Develop Partnerships and Prepare for Study						
Step 2. Establish Study Rationale and Focus						
Study the Affected Environment						
Step 3. Assess Resource Conditions						
Step 4. Evaluate Future Issues and Situation Analysis						
Consider Alternatives						
Step 5. Formulate Restoration and Adaptive Mgt Alts.						
Step 6. Compare Impacts of Alternatives						
Step 7. Consider Preferred Alternative						
Finalize the Plan						
Step 8. Publish Draft MRERP-EIS						
Step 9. Reassess MRERP-EIS						
Step 10. Publish Final MRERP-EIS and Record of Decision						

DRAFT

Cooperating Agency Team—Next Steps

Your POC's Level of Commitment

Initiate Planning

Nov 08 Cooperation Session LOI

Jan 09 Initiate first Cooperating Agency Team meeting

Study the Affected Environment

Jan 09—Spring 10

Quarterly Cooperating Team meetings and between meeting conference calls

Consider Alternatives

2010—2012

Formulate Restoration and Adaptive Management Alternatives

Select the Plan

2014

USACE Publish FINAL EIS and Signed Record of Decision

Cooperating Agency Team—Next Steps

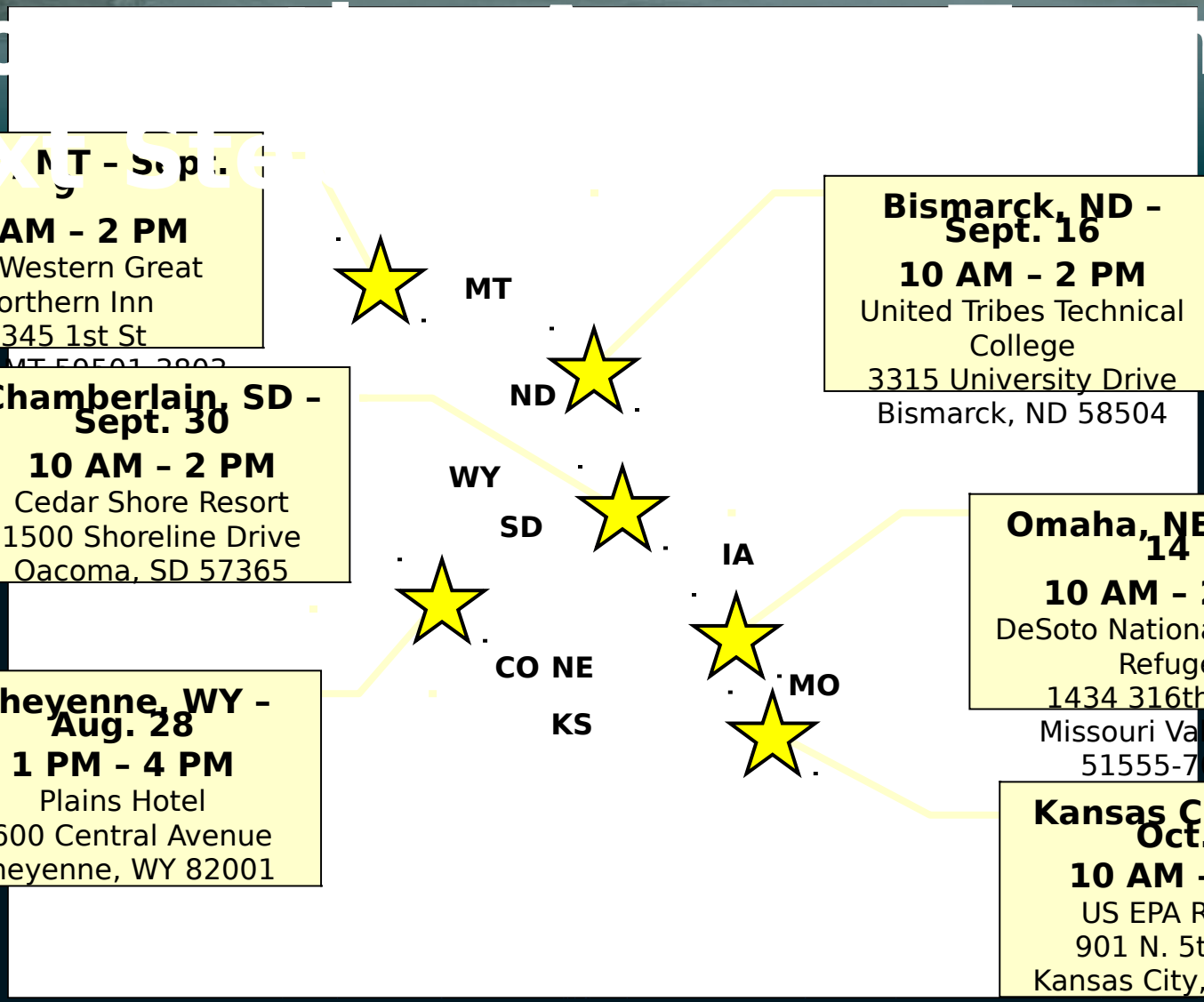
Anticipated Level of Effort

- Effort will fluctuate over the life of the planning process.
- Estimate ¼ - 1 FTE for planning effort
- Distribution of FTE will vary based on participants (i.e., POC v. Tech Team)

Cooperating Agency Team—Next Steps

- **01 Sept 2008**—Potential Cooperators receive invite and LOA
- **31 Oct 2008**—Send signed LOA to USACE
- **01 Dec 2008**—Cooperating Agency Team established

Coo[illegible]n – Next Ste[illegible]



Havre, MT – Sept. [illegible]
10 AM – 2 PM
Best Western Great Northern Inn
1345 1st St
Hav[illegible]

Chamberlain, SD – Sept. 30
10 AM – 2 PM
Cedar Shore Resort
1500 Shoreline Drive
Oacoma, SD 57365

Cheyenne, WY – Aug. 28
1 PM – 4 PM
Plains Hotel
1600 Central Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82001

Bismarck, ND – Sept. 16
10 AM – 2 PM
United Tribes Technical College
3315 University Drive
Bismarck, ND 58504

Omaha, NE – Oct. 14
10 AM – 2 PM
DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge
1434 316th Lane
Missouri Valley, IA
51555-7033

Kansas City, MO – Oct.. 7
10 AM – 2 PM
US EPA Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, KS 66101

MRERP Points of Contact

- **USACE**
  - Randy Sellers, randy.p.sellers@usace.army.mil, phone 402.995.2689
  - Jennifer Switzer, jennifer.l.switzer@usace.army.mil, phone 816.389.3062
- **USFWS**
  - Wayne Nelson-Stastny, wayne_nelsonstastny@fws.gov, phone 402.667.2884

Questions?

www.MRERP.org